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# Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 21 | Humidity 67% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 80,604 | Nifty 24,530 | Gold 73,016 | Silver 89,675 | Dollar 83.69 | Euro 91.06 | GBP 108.07

## TOTS TRAINING

Anganwadis begin offering pre-primary classes, including lower and upper kindergarten, starting today

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## HAVEN FOR ALL

Biodiversity report reveals Dorekere Lake is home to 230+ species of trees, butterflies, herbs, birds

PAGE 5

**No checks and balances for hotels, convention halls operating without adequate parking space for its guests, resulting in parking chaos on footpaths, traffic jams**

# PATH OF CLUTTER

## BBMP officials must inspect such establishments, say citizens

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

If the grievances of pedestrians and residents of Vajarahalli and surrounding areas are anything to go by, it seems the traffic police have completely abandoned their task of enforcing no parking norm on the stretch of Kanakapura Road near Vajarahalli.

The traffic police have dutifully installed No Parking sign boards here, but motorists continue to park their vehicles on this stretch and nobody stops them. The result is traffic jams and pedestrians struggling to find space on the footpaths.

The residents of Vajarahalli and Kendriya Nagar Layout have been complaining to the traffic police about parking of vehicles on the footpaths and on both sides of the road but that has not got them any help.

"It has become difficult for pedestrians to walk on the footpath along Kanakapura Road near Vajarahalli due to unauthorised parking of vehicles on the footpath. There are a few hotels and convention halls that do not have sufficient space for parking. The authorities concerned have not taken action against the owners of such buildings and hotels that compel the visitors and guests to park on the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

**"As per the norms, such buildings should have basement parking. The BBMP authorities must inspect the building for violation of norms. The footpath here has been converted into a parking lot**

— VK Srivatsa, Change Makers of Kanakapura Road

# Breakfast is served

Thanks to Class 12 student, students of govt nodal school in Bellandur have been having bananas every day for a year

Iffath.Fathima
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

This teenager has a compassionate approach to life that many adults can fail to take. While interacting with government schools during her school projects, she figured out two pressing issues in schools: Students often came to school hungry, lacking breakfast, which impacted their focus and learning, and the school had only three toilets for 400 students, leading to discomfort and long waits.

This is what led to the 'Hungry No More' initiative started by Sakshi Srikanth, a class 12 student at Inventure Academy on Sarjapur Road.

The initiative has made a significant impact on the Government Nodal School in Bellandur. The school, housed in a 90-year-old building, serves 400 students from underprivileged local communities and children of guest workers. Under the leadership of Headmaster Thimme Gowda, the school strives to provide the best for its students, but faced challenges as children often came to school without eating breakfast and the school building did not have adequate toilet facilities.

Sakshi started out with smaller projects like distributing books and stationery to local schools during the holiday season through her 'Joy For Giving' initiative. Determined to make a difference,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

## 3 THINGS TO DO

### 01 Celebrating Rafi

Tumsa Nahin Dekha is a tribute to legendary singer Mohd. Rafi on his birth centenary, by celebrity Bollywood playback singer Poornima Shreshtha. Joining her will be Anil Bajpai and Prassan Rao along with extremely popular singers from Namma Bengaluru. The show will feature memorable hits of the legend Mohd Rafi solos and duets. Music will be by the No. 1 Music orchestra in Bangalore led by the renowned Pradeep Patkar & Team. Tickets are available from Rs. 300 onwards. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall; When: July 28, 5.30 pm**

### 02 BLACKPINK party

Celebrate BLACKPINK's 8th anniversary in style at "Shut Down," an electrifying event organized by BlrGrooveCo. Enjoy jaw-dropping performances, fun fan activities, and exclusive surprises. Plus, don't miss the special screening of "Light Up the Sky." Join fellow BLINKs for an unforgettable tribute to BLACKPINK's legendary journey and global success. Tickets are available from Rs. 199 onwards. **Where: Dhwani Indiranagar; When: August 11, 2 pm**

### 03 Visual mesmerisation

Sublime Galleria presents "Nature's Splendor," wildlife photography exhibition featuring exquisite works by renowned award winner wildlife photographer, MN Jayakumar. Nature's Splendour will take you on a visual journey of envisioning wildlife photography as works of art, where colours captivate and movement is frozen in time. Through this exhibition of 35 curated photographs taken across India, Africa, and the Americas, MN Jayakumar highlights unique aspects of animal behavior. His photographs beautifully blend light and shadow to capture raw emotion and intimate moments. Entry fee is Rs. 50 per person. **Where: Sublime Gallery, UB City; When: August 2 to August 30**

# Kindergarten kicks off at anganwadis today

## Kaveripura in Govindrajanagar first to implement initiative, govt to upgrade around 20,000 centres in first phase; students to get bags, books, uniforms

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Azim Premji Foundation has partnered with the government to provide eggs and supplementary nutritious food to children four days a week

From today, Anganwadis will begin offering pre-primary classes, including lower and upper kindergarten. Kaveripura in Govindarajanagar constituency will be the first to implement this initiative, which is considered a pioneering experiment in the country.

Laxmi Hebbalkar, the Minister for Women and Child Welfare department, stated, "We will provide bags, books, and uniforms for enrolled children. In the first phase, the government aims to upgrade 15,000 to 20,000 Anganwadi centres." Efforts will be made to improve facilities at these centres and there are no plans to remove Anganwadi teachers. The minister also recognised the significant contributions of Anganwadi workers and mentioned that a decision on providing insurance to them will be made soon, following discussions with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Additionally, the minister assured a quicker decision to be implemented in terms of increasing the honorarium for these workers with the Chief Minister. The recruitment process for Anganwadi teachers will be completed soon, with interviews conducted by a district-level committee.

Minister Hebbalkar pointed out that the central government has fixed the amount for nutritious food at Rs. 8 per child, which has remained unchanged for the past nine years. Despite this, the state government continues to provide nutritious food through Anganwadi centres. There are 69,000 Anganwadi centres in the state, with some facing challenges that the department is actively addressing. The primary objective of Anganwadi centres is to provide quality education and nutritious food to children.

> **"Efforts will be made to improve facilities at these centers and there are no plans to remove Anganwadi teachers**
> – Laxmi Hebbalkar, Minister

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has announced that students of government and government-aided schools will receive eggs four days a week. The Chief Minister had stressed the importance of quality food for mental health and good education. He shared his experience of seeing children come to school without breakfast and stay until noon without lunch, which led to the decision to provide meals and eggs two days a week.

The Azim Premji Foundation has partnered with the government to provide eggs and supplementary nutritious food to children four days a week at these Anganwadi centres, prioritising children's wellbeing.

# Ophthalmologists warn of monsoon eye infections

Due to increasing eye infections with the onset of monsoon, healthcare experts are issuing an advisory to help people prevent contracting such infections. The advisory suggests keeping personal items like towels, pillows, and eye drops of the infected person separate from other household members, avoiding swimming pools during this period, and refraining from wearing contact lenses until an eye doctor consultation.

Immediate consultation with a health center is advised if there is redness in the eyes, and the use of eye drops without a doctor's advice is discouraged.

To prevent eye infections, the advisory lists several precautions: wash your hands frequently with soap and water, especially before touching your eyes; avoid rubbing your eyes; don't share eye makeup or other personal items with others; wear sunglasses to protect your eyes from dust and wind; clean contact lenses properly and replace them as directed; and see an eye doctor immediately if you experience any symptoms of an eye infection.

An ophthalmologist said, "The most common eye infection during the monsoon is conjunctivitis, also known as pink eye. This highly contagious condition causes inflammation of the conjunctiva, the thin membrane that lines the eyelids and covers the white part of the eye. Conjunctivitis can be caused by viruses, bacteria, or allergies, with symptoms including redness, itching, watering, and a gritty feeling in the eyes. Viral and allergic conjunctivitis are usually mild and clear up on their own within a week or two, while bacterial conjunctivitis may require antibiotic eye drops. Another serious condition is a corneal ulcer, an open sore on the cornea that can be caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, or parasites. Corneal ulcers can lead to vision loss if not treated promptly, with symptoms including severe pain, redness, light sensitivity, blurred vision, and a feeling of something being in the eye. Immediate consultation with an eye doctor is crucial if you suspect a corneal ulcer. A stye is a small, red, tender bump that forms on the edge of the eyelid due to a bacterial infection of an oil gland near the base of an eyelash. Styes are usually not serious and go away on their own within a few days, but they can be quite painful. To help relieve the pain, apply a warm compress to the stye for 10-15 minutes at a time, several times a day. Avoid rubbing or popping the stye, as this can worsen the condition."

— BMB

# Aggrieved home-buyers must name promoters in complaint

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It is often seen that real estate companies become insolvent while its promoters remain wealthy. Some of these promoters and directors are also known to declare or make their entities bankrupt and embark on opening new companies under different names. The idea is to cheat homebuyers or avoid paying compensation to them for either delay in delivering the flats or for sub-standard quality or for not honouring the commitment made at the time of signing an agreement.

Most aggrieved home buyers then lodge complaints with the jurisdictional police or file petitions in the court. As they are unaware, they mention the name of the real estate company in the complaint or petition.

They do not know that they have to include or mention the names of promoters and directors of the real estate company in the complaint.

## HC order

The recent High Court order had directed petitioners to be relegated back to the Karnataka RERA for the determination of their rival contentions afresh in the execution proceedings in accordance with law. The High Court issued the order while hearing a petition filed by Vasudevan Sathyamoorthy and Priya Vasudevan.

The respondents are the state government, Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru Urban, the Secretary of Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority, the Special Tahsildar, Bengaluru North, and 23 others.

"It is clear that without the petitioners being made parties to either to the RERA order or the execution proceedings, it was impermissible for the respondent No. 4-Tahsildar to proceed against the petitioners herein and consequently, on this ground alone, I am of the considered opinion that the impugned Japti notices deserve to be quashed and the parties are relegated to execution proceedings before the RERA for adjudication of rival contentions afresh in accordance with law," the High Court Judge said. The High Court order stated that the RERA shall implead the petitioners and other directors as parties to the execution proceedings.

**In petition to RERA or complaint to police, most just mention name of real estate company**

Karnataka Home Buyers Forum Sanchalak Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar described the order as an eye opener for home buyers.

"We recommend all home buyers who are litigating in RERA or Consumer Courts to include the Builder company name, Founders/ Executive Directors of the company name and landowners names individually included as respondents in their cases to get justice," Padmanabhachar said.

Retired Naval veteran commander Surendra emphasised on the need of including promoters' names. "The RERA must amend the rules to accommodate inclusion of land owners while lodging complaints," he said.

# BM Finance Fundas

**Budget 2024:** Economic Survey to be presented on July 22, a day before Budget

# Idle money in savings bank account?

## 5 ways to invest and ensure liquidity

### Idle money

Investors often end up keeping funds idle in their bank savings accounts. This deprives them of the ability to make their money work for them. Here are some smart ways to utilise idle funds lying in the bank accounts while ensuring liquidity and relatively low risk. (Source: Content courtesy Centre for Investment Education and Learning (CIEL))

### Sweep-in fixed deposit

Sweep-in FDs automatically transfer surplus funds from a savings account to a fixed deposit, offering higher interest rates while maintaining liquidity. To set up a sweep-in facility, one can request it through the bank's branch or via online banking. The bank links the savings account with FD.

### Money market MF

Money market MFs invest in short-term instruments, offering higher returns than savings accounts and easy redemption options. Research liquid funds online or consult a financial adviser for guidance. Investments can be conveniently made through fund websites or mobile apps.

### Ultra short-term debt fund

Ultra short-term debt funds invest in instruments with maturities of up to one year, providing higher returns than savings accounts, with easy access to funds.

### 'Special plans' for deposit rates

Indian lenders have intensified efforts to garner retail deposits through special plans that offer savers at least 25-30 basis points more than current commitments of comparable tenures, signalling policy interest rates will remain elevated for some time now.

The regulator had directed bank CEOs to narrow the gap between deposit and credit growth. The latest RBI data showed bank credit rose 14% on-year as of June 28, while deposits rose 11%. "Banks are offering higher rates for less than two years tenure. So when the interest rate cycle turns, banks would not want to be stuck with high-cost liabilities," said Anil Gupta, senior VP of the financial sector at ICRA Ratings. **ET**

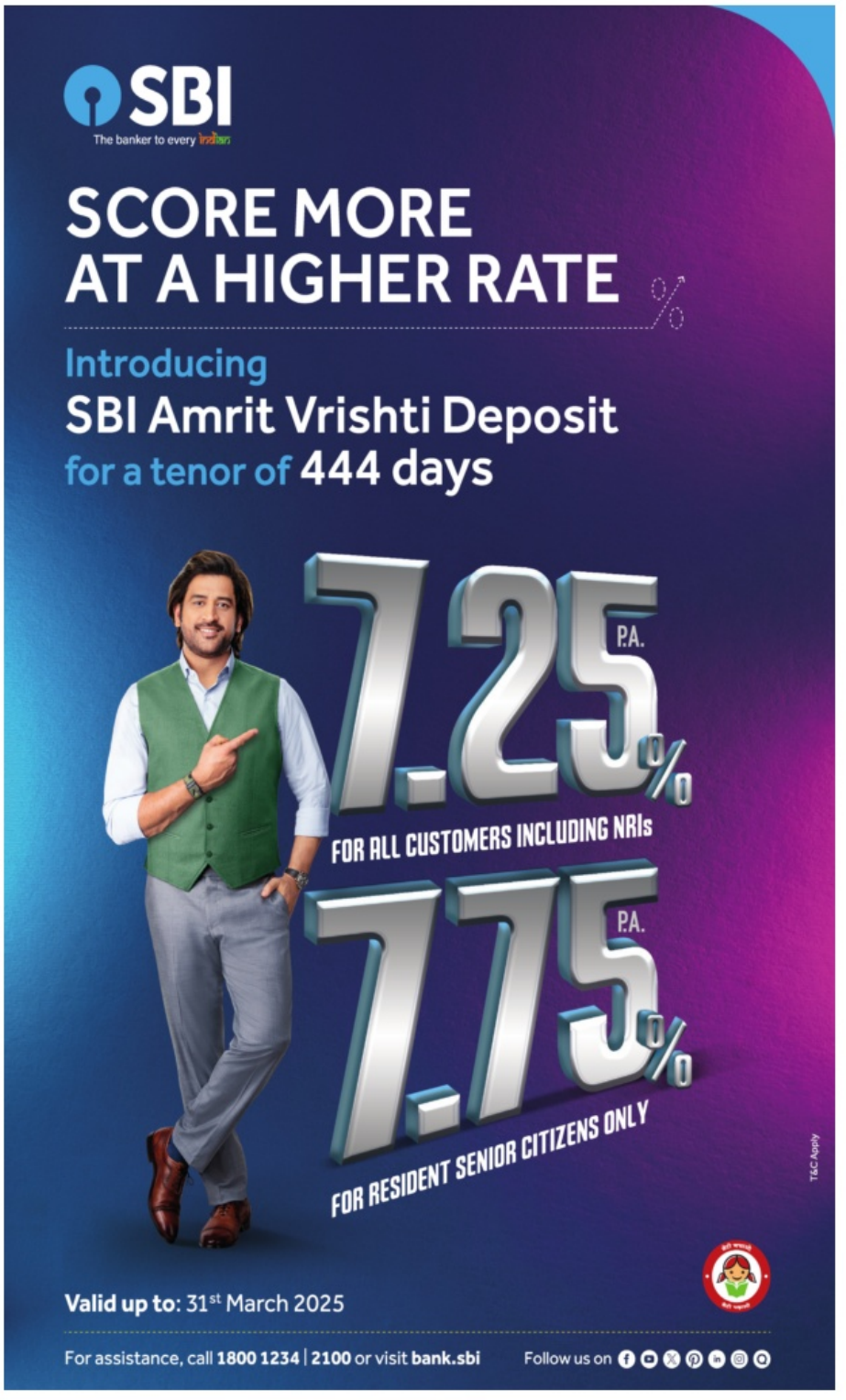
These are ideal for those seeking a balance between returns and liquidity.

### High-interest savings account

Some banks offer high-interest savings accounts, with competitive rates and unrestricted withdrawals. Compare offerings from different banks to find the account that best suits your needs.

### Recurring deposit

Recurring deposits let you invest regularly, offering higher interest than savings accounts and keeping funds liquid. Open an RD at your bank's branch or online, setting up auto debits from your savings account on a monthly or quarterly basis. **– ET Online**



# BBMP rewrites ad rules; rates based on land value

## Latest draft guidelines allow commercial hoardings with size and location limits, lift previous bans; fines and penalties introduced for violations

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has proposed differential advertisement rates in the city for which it has put out draft rules that say advertisement tax will be based on the guidance value of the land in the respective area.

With the publication of the draft rules, it now looks certain that BBMP has decided to permit private agencies to install commercial hoardings, lifting the previous ban on such advertisements. The draft rules are open for public review, and any objections must be submitted within 30 days. The new rules propose allowing hoardings on the ground and first floors of buildings, as well as on rooftops while specifying size and location restrictions and prohibiting them on certain roads.

Advertising agencies, which had been advocating for the relaxation of the rules, view this move as a success. However, concerns have been raised regarding the potential impact on public spaces and the city's visual appeal. "The BBMP's earlier ban on hoardings was seen as a move to declutter public spaces and promote a cleaner and more organised city. However, the current government's decision to relax the rules is being criticised for prioritising the interests of advertisers over those of the public," said a citizen.

The new rule mandates advertisement tax for BMTC, government, semi-government, and private vehicles. Ads are banned within 10 metres of flyovers, underpasses, and junctions.

"Unauthorised advertisements will be subject to a fine of twice the tender value. If the advertisement tax is not paid, BBMP can take possession of the property, freeze bank accounts, and even file a criminal case. The BBMP has the power to impose a fine equivalent to twice the tender value for unauthorised advertisements," the draft rules state. The rules also stipulate that there will be a limit to self-advertisement; no organisation can display an advertisement exceeding 150 square feet. If an advertisement exceeds 175 square feet, the entire advertisement tax must be paid.

Rules ban ads promoting violence, obscenity, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or discrimination

**Advertisements are banned within 50 metres of religious sites, monuments and specific roads. Existing ads in public-private projects are exempt**

The draft rules for displaying advertisements in Bengaluru include revenue sharing, public tenders, and mandatory payment and permission for advertisers. Exemptions are given for advertisements displayed inside shops, metro or government agency premises, and on rail or metro coaches. Advertisements are not allowed within 50 mt of religious places, historical monuments, and certain roads. They are restricted in high-footfall areas such as bus stops, railway stations, and public toilets, with size and distance restrictions based on road width and proximity to other advertisements. Existing advertisements in public-private projects like bus shelters and e-toilets are exempt. A control committee will oversee and regulate city advertisements, with the rules integrated into the master plan and penalties for violations. The rules also propose specific restrictions on advertising content including prohibitions on advertisements that promote violence, harm, or obscenity, use living beings or animals, obstruct pedestrian paths or public roads, promote alcohol, tobacco, or drugs, or discriminate based on caste, religion, or gender.

| Tax rate (per sq m per month) | Guidance value (per sq m) (₹) |
|---|---|
| 40 | <3,000 |
| 50 | 3,000–5,000 |
| 60 | 5,000–10,000 |
| 70 | 10,000–20,000 |
| 80 | 20,000–50,000 |
| 90 | 50,000–1 lakh |
| 100 | 1 lakh–2 lakh |
| 110 | >2 lakh |

### In the past

In 2018, the High Court ordered the removal of unauthorised advertisements, and the city council imposed a one-year ban on outdoor ads. The Outdoor Advertisement and Public Message Policy and Bye-Law–2018 were approved on August 28, 2018, with a draft published on September 11, 2018. A High Court stay on the ban was lifted on February 7, 2019. On February 15, 2019, the Urban Development Authority issued a draft notification of the "Advertisement Regulations 2019". On February 26, 2021, the "Bengaluru Advertisement Regulations 2019" were published in their final form.

## HC drops POCSO charges after accused marries victim

The Karnataka High Court has dismissed criminal charges against a 23-year-old man from Mysuru, who was accused of sexually assaulting an 18-year-old girl when she was a minor. The court's decision came after the couple presented their marriage certificate, proving they are legally married now. Justice M Nagaprasanna emphasised that the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) case could be revived if the accused abandons the girl and their child after the case's closure.

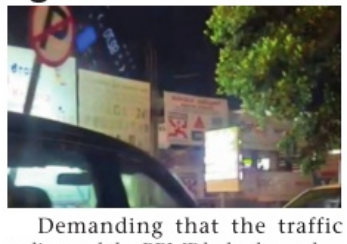
The court had previously granted interim bail to the accused to allow him to marry the victim once she turned 18, with the condition that he would return to jail upon presenting the marriage certificate. The accused complied with this condition. The court has ruled that continuing the proceedings would negatively impact the mother and child, leading to societal stigma. The incident occurred on February 2, 2023, when the accused took the school-going girl to an isolated location and allegedly sexually assaulted her. The girl subsequently gave birth to their child. Both parties, the accused and the victim, through their legal representatives, stated that they were in love but faced opposition from their parents. They had requested the closure of the proceedings, given the accused's intention to marry the victim. The court's decision was further supported by a DNA report confirming the biological parentage of the child. — PTI

## Is no-parking sign just for show?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

footpath as they have not managed to create space," said Suresh MC, a resident of Kendriya Nagar Layout.

Expressing concern over the haphazard parking of vehicles on the footpath and on the road, VK Srivatsa, Secretary of Change Makers of Kanakapura Road, demanded the BBMP officials cancel the permission given to one convention hall that is functioning without parking space for vehicles. "As per the norms, such buildings should have basement parking. The BBMP authorities must inspect the building for violation of norms. The footpath here has been converted into a parking lot. Traffic police are not doing anything to make the footpath free from parking of vehicles," said Srivatsa.



Demanding that the traffic police and the BBMP help the pedestrians who are compelled to walk on the road, Vinayak Manjunath, a resident of Judicial Layout, Talghattapura, said that pedestrians have been facing a lot of problems due to unauthorised parking of vehicles on the footpath. "I appeal to the authorities concerned to enforce no-parking norms and help the pedestrians," said Manjunath.

Meanwhile, Talaghattapura Traffic Police Inspector was not available for comment.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
**Problems in your area?**
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

### Cleanup failures

**Chickpet**

The BBMP's efforts to clean the area around Kilari Road's 4th Cross near CB Bhandari School have fallen short.

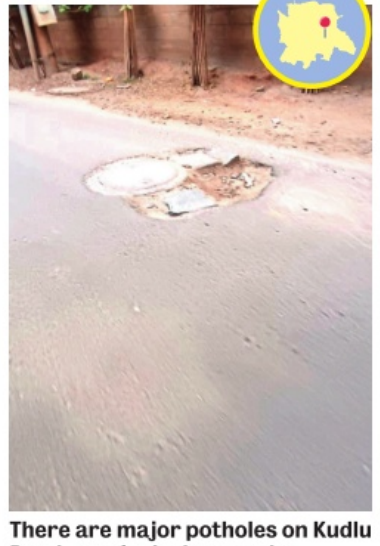
### Masked statue

**JP Nagar**

The Swami Vivekananda statue in Natraj Park, JP Nagar, 1st Phase, has had its face covered by a mask for months. Initially thought to be due to election rules, the mask remains without any explanation from authorities.

### Pothole perils

**Kudlu Road**



There are major potholes on Kudlu Road, particularly near the Freshco Hyperbazar area.

# Healthy trees at risk; citizens call for reassessment

**Volunteers' survey along Yelahanka Main Road & on suburban rail route find many trees that do not fall in track alignments can be saved, while some are on verge of death**

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A group of volunteers, in association with Namma Bengaluru Foundation, North Bangalore Post, and Jhatkhaa, conducted a tree walk and inspection on Saturday. The initiative, titled "Save Trees, Free the Trees," aims to promote environmental sustainability and ensure a healthier city for future generations.

The event saw participation from over 15 citizens who surveyed more than 100 trees along Yelahanka Main Road and the suburban rail route. The group conducted a tree walk to assess the health of the trees, inspecting those on the footpath and those adjacent to the railway tracks.

The group identified around three trees infested with termites and on the verge of dying. They have requested the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) forest department to inspect these trees and plant new saplings. Additionally, they noted that the trees numbered by the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project near an underpass at Judicial Layout, Allalasandra, are about 40 years old, healthy, and not in the railway track alignment. They believe these trees can be saved even with the addition of another lane, as there is already a double track.

Volunteers hugging a tree that is expected to be felled to facilitate suburban railway project

Namma Bengaluru Foundation General Manager Vinod Jacob stated that the reassessment and reevaluation of the suburban rail project report aimed to cut down 33,000 trees. "There is a possibility to save 40 to 50% of trees if minor adjustments and realignment can be done in the project. The tree committee has given permission but it seems they have not deep-dived into the project since this is a major one involving a huge tree loss (220 trees per km). We urge the Karnataka Forest Department and Minister of Forest and Environment to intervene and initiate a new study to reduce the number of trees to be axed," he said.

The volunteers mapped around 100 trees, numbered about 60, and found that over 50% of these trees could be saved.

Soumya Dayakar, an organic farmer from Yelahanka, joined the tree walk where volunteers discovered a distressing sight: several trees, including old native species like Tamarind and Kadamba, were marked for felling. "While I recognise the necessity of development and the importance of enhancing our city's infrastructure and transport, witnessing this loss raises profound questions. Can we truly compensate for the ecological value these trees provide? Have those responsible for development thoroughly explored all alternatives to preserve even a fraction of these trees?" she said.

Avanti Rao, an environmentalist, noted that many trees marked for removal for the Suburban Railway Project were not actually in the project's path. "It would be beneficial for the Technical Evaluation Committee to reconsider and review the trees marked for felling. I am confident that many of these trees can be saved," she said.

# Dorekere Lake is haven for diverse flora, fauna

**Biodiversity report reveals lake is home to 230+ species of trees, butterflies, herbs, birds**

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Dorekere Lake, covering 28 acres, is a thriving ecosystem that supports diverse wildlife, replenishes groundwater, and offers fresh air to residents.

In a biodiversity report released by the Action Aid Association, covering observations between July 2023 and June 2024, it was found that Dorekere Lake is rich in biodiversity. The lake is home to over 230 species of trees, herbs, butterflies, and birds. This includes 73 species of herbs and shrubs, 57 tree species (such as the Golden Shower Tree, Terminalia Arjuna, Terminalia Chebula, Ficus exasperata, and Ficus arnottiana), 74 bird species, and 26 butterfly species.

According to the report, Dorekere's Island is a haven for various species for breeding, nesting, and roosting, helping protect endangered species from the threats of human activity. Five nesting species include the Oriental Darter, Grey Heron, and Black-crowned Night Heron. Fifteen roosting species include the Oriental Darter, Black-headed Ibis, Painted Stork, Glossy Ibis, Cattle Egret, Rosy Starling, and Great Cormorant.

The study contributors included JN Prasad, a naturalist and birdwatcher for four decades; Ulhas Anand, a product designer and active birdwatching group member in Bengaluru; Arun Kumar, a plant taxonomist documenting Bannerghatta National Park's flora for his PhD at The University of Trans-Discplinary Health Sciences and Technology, Bengaluru; NR Swamy, a natural history and environmental education expert with over 30 years of experience; Bhuvan Raj K, a passionate birdwatcher and nature enthusiast; and Vikas D Prasad, a nature enthusiast.

One of the fifteen roosting species includes Black-headed ibis

**Recommendations for preserving Biodiversity hotspot**

- Strong outer and inner fences to protect the lake
- Allow Grass and plants to grow in the wetland which serves as forage and habitat features
- Focus on improving water quality at the lake
- Wetland development as a buffer zone: Floating, emergent, anchored plant life will serve as a suitable habitat for many species, especially for nesting and foraging birds
- Growing grass (preferably native species) on either side of concretised pathways
- Encourage growing small nectarine plants around the lake, especially between trees
- Balancing the growth of native and non-native species

The surveys focused on four categories: shrubs, herbs, and climbers; trees; butterflies; and birds. Each survey, led by a naturalist, aimed to catalogue species and assess Dorekere's biodiversity. All surveys were nature walks, involving community members, including children and adults, as participants and volunteers. Naturalist experts began with an introduction before guiding walks to identify various species. Surveys started and ended at the same point along the lake.

Wild and naturalised herb and shrub species are a refuge for urban wildlife. They provide food and shelter, hold the soil together, and prevent soil runoff into the lake. Over 29 exotic species and 44 native species have been documented. Under the trees, over 57 species amounting to approximately 768 trees have been counted during the survey. Different trees serve as suitable habitats for different species. Dorekere's trees are a mix of native, non-native, and invasive species.

The area consists of a fair mix of four species of Ficus trees (exasperata, racemosa, arnottiana, religiosa), accounting for almost 50 trees. Considered keystone species within the habitat, these trees host a significant number of birds and insects. The presence of a large number of Pongam/Honge trees, almost 170 trees, makes this lake susceptible to the risks of monoculture plantation. This species should be gradually reduced and replaced with other tree species.

Over 63 resident bird species were identified and 11 migratory bird species were identified. Four Near-Threatened species as per IUCN 3.1 were identified (Spot-billed Pelican, Black-headed ibis, Painted stork & Oriental Darter). A total of 26 species of butterflies were identified. The 26 species found belong to the following five families: Swallowtails, Skippers, Whites & Yellows, Brush foots & Blues thus, five of the six were found in Bengaluru's Dorekere. The family Riodinidae, (Metalmark butterflies) were not seen during the surveys.

The report will be submitted to BBMP-Lakes and Biodiversity Board for records and further ecological improvements.

# Ramp walk celebrates sustainability

The Preloved Fashion Show, hosted by the Solid Waste Management Round Table (SWMRT) and HSR Citizen Forum, drew 200 attendees and highlighted sustainable fashion with preloved and upcycled clothing.

The fashion show showcased creatively repurposed outfits from second-hand garments, highlighting the beauty and eco-friendliness of reusing clothing. The runway display underscored the importance of reducing waste and promoting sustainability in fashion.

The event successfully raised awareness about the environmental impact of fast fashion and encouraged the community to adopt more responsible consumption habits.

"It was a lovely show. The event aimed to promote sustainable fashion by showcasing preloved and upcycled clothing items. We had 3 sequences of Ramp walks in the show. Almost 60 participants walked the ramp with creative, upcycled or preloved clothes styled beautifully. Our special guests

Participants showcasing upcycled outfits on the ramp

Priyanka Abhishek and Nayana Premnath discussed the value of conscious consumption, emphasising thrifting, reusing, and maximising product lifespans. We featured 10 stalls showcasing various textile waste management solutions, including collection, thrifting, swapping, and responsible recycling options. " said a SWMRT member.

Raj from Ploggers Army said, " The key takeaway from the event is the city's growing community of fashion-conscious individuals committed to sustainability, highlighting the need for more such events to further promote eco-friendly practices. People across all age groups walking on the ramp was like icing on the cake."

-Iffath Fathima

# Hoskote Lake filled with debris and waste

## Residents and lake activists are struggling to preserve lake with no government support

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Hoskote, lake volunteers, and environmentalists have been working hard to protect Hoskote Lake from not only encroachers but also from dumping animal waste and debris. The water body keeps hitting the headlines due to the negligence and apathy of elected representatives and authorities concerned.

It is learnt that local police have served a notice to one of the volunteers, who played a key role in nabbing a person dumping chicken waste in the lake, alleging him of making false complaints.

"How do you expect volunteers to prevent people dumping waste in the lake if the police issue notices to them? I stopped visiting the lake for more than a year after they issued a notice to a lake volunteer because I do not want to land in trouble or end up behind bars for being a lake volunteer," said Nagabhushan CS, a resident of Hoskote.

Purushottam N, a resident, said that he was very happy when the police seized the vehicle that was used for carrying chicken waste to the lake and took the people, who dumped waste in the lake, into custody. "The police inspector promised to take action against the people responsible for dumping waste. However, the police not only set free the litterbugs and released the vehicle but also served a notice to me stating that I am harassing gullible and innocent people and making false complaints," said Purushottam.

Top: Debris dumped at the lake
Bottom left: A litterbug caught on camera by lake activists
Bottom right: The vehicle allegedly carrying waste to dump

> How do you expect volunteers to prevent people dumping waste in the lake if the police issue notices to them alleging them of false complaints?
> –Lake activist

Some people were also allegedly releasing sewage into the lake at night. "A few septic tanker vehicle drivers are releasing sewage into the lake at night. I want the authorities to put up barricades to prevent vehicles entering the lake land, but no one keeps a vigil," he said. "Dumping of debris began after a gap of two years. I want the authorities to save the lake," said Swaroop Bharadwaj, another resident.

Appealing to local MLA Sharath Bache Gowda to take measures to save Hoskote Lake, Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist, said the lake has become a dumping place for all types of debris.

However, Hoskote City Municipal Corporation Commissioner Zaheer Abbas A has said that he would take measures to clear debris dumped on the lake land. "Though the lake does not come under the Hoskote City Municipal Corporation, I will ensure debris is cleared from the lake land," he said.

# Job quota bill: PhonePe chief apologises, clarifies his stance

PhonePe Founder and CEO Sameer Nigam on Sunday clarified his personal comment regarding Karnataka's draft job reservation bill, saying it was never his intention to insult the state or its people.

In a statement, Nigam said if his comments hurt anyone's sentiments in such a way, "I am truly sorry and would like to offer you an unconditional apology".

He further said he has the highest regard for Kannada, and all other Indian languages. "I truly believe that linguistic diversity and rich cultural heritage is a national asset that all Indians should be proud of, and all Indians should be respectful of and celebrate local and cultural norms," said Nigam.

PhonePe was born in Bengaluru, he said, adding "From Bengaluru, over the past decade, we have expanded across the length and breadth of India and been able to deliver secure and efficient digital payments for over 55 crore Indians." He said that the company is grateful for the supportive business environment that Karnataka's governments and its local Kannadiga populace have offered.

"Bengaluru's Indian startups are competing against trillion-dollar giants like Google, Apple, Amazon and Microsoft," he said. To do so, these companies must be able to employ the very best talent available in India purely based on their technological skills and proficiency in fields such as 'Coding, Design, Product Management, Data Sciences, Machine Learning, AI and beyond'.

Nigam said he wants to help create lakhs of jobs for Bengaluru and Karnataka. "And, I believe with more dialogue and discussion, we can find ways to create more sustainable employment avenues," he added.

–IANS

# NOTES FROM THE FIELD

### Counter allegations

During the recent all-party meeting on the Cauvery water issue, former Chief Minister and current Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy was noticeably absent. When questioned by journalists, he responded, "The meeting was a farce. The government was releasing water to Tamil Nadu while pretending to seek a solution. I didn't attend because false rumours were being spread about me. The Congress accused me of attending a non-vegetarian feast in Pandavapura. Let me clarify: I have given up non-vegetarian cuisine and now follow a vegetarian diet. Despite this, baseless accusations were made against me."

### Requesting change of timings for Assembly sessions

During the recent Assembly session, opposition leaders accused the ruling party members of arriving late. Speaker UT Khader acknowledged the validity of the allegation, noting that he had observed some members arriving tardily. In response, Kagwad MLA Raju Kage explained, "We are not intentionally arriving late. Every morning, hundreds of people come to our homes with their pleas. We can make it to the session by 11 AM but struggle to attend if it begins at 9:30 AM. Supporters come with diverse issues, and they feel neglected if we don't address their concerns. Therefore, I request more time to attend the session."

CM Siddaramaiah visiting rain affected areas on Sunday

### Quenching thirst

During the recent session, a war of words erupted between the ruling and opposition party leaders. As Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka spoke on the issue, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asked him to sit down. When Ashoka refused, Siddaramaiah quipped that Ashoka must be feeling thirsty and should be given drinking water to quench his thirst. However, the friendly banter continued even as both sides exchanged a war of words and allegations against each other.

### Love-Hate relationship

Malleswaram Member of Legislative Assembly, Dr CN Ashwath Narayan and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar have long had a "love-hate" relationship, often engaging in public spats. Recently, at a public event, when Narayan walked to the dais, Shivakumar openly welcomed him with a bouquet, and the two were seen conversing amicably. However, this brief moment of camaraderie did not last. The two clashed again over corruption charges. Ashwath Narayan insisted that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah be present for the discussion on the Valmiki Development Corporation issue in the Legislative Assembly and made a veiled attack on the government regarding corruption. In response, Shivakumar strongly retorted, calling Narayan the "father of looters."

### Cashew talk

HD Kumaraswamy had claimed that he opted out of the all-party meeting to avoid eating cashews. Agriculture Minister N Cheluvarayaswamy remarked, "Firstly, I fail to see the issue with distributing cashews. However, I must clarify that cashews were not served at the meeting; we only offered coffee to all the party leaders. I am unaware of what was served during HD Kumaraswamy's tenure as Chief Minister. I encourage my journalist colleagues to investigate what was on the menu at HDK's meetings so we can consider adopting the same if it's deemed necessary."

–Sridhar Vivan

# K'taka not using funds to rein in air pollution

## Assessment by NGO shows state has used just 31% of National Clean Air Programme funds

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com
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File photo of the power plant at Yelahanka

Karnataka is one of the worst-performing states in utilising funds under various programmes to bring down air pollution in its major cities.

An assessment done by the Center for Science and Environment (CSE), a Delhi-based NGO, shows that while the state has utilised only 31% of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) funds, it has used a little over 12% of the funding provided under the 15th Finance Commission. Karnataka had received Rs 62.42 crore under NCAP between 2019 and 2024. Out of this, the state has utilized Rs 19.59 crore, the third lowest after Delhi and Punjab.

Similarly, while Rs 535.1 crore has been released by the center to the state under the 15th Finance Commission, only Rs 68.37 crore has been utilized so far. This has put Karnataka in the last spot on the list of states that received NCAP funds to reduce air pollution.

NCAP was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in January 2019 to set clean air targets for 131 cities designated as nonattainment cities due to consistently high particulate levels exceeding the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

While the state pollution control boards disburse the NCAP funds to the department concerned after receiving it from the Centre, the funding under the 15th Finance Commission is brought in through state finance ministries and subsequently to urban local bodies (ULBs). The funding is performance-linked and requires cities to demonstrate improvement in levels of particulate matter in the atmosphere. Moreover, cities receiving the funds are also obligated to show an increase in the number of good air quality days to receive the funds in the subsequent year.

City-based air quality experts and researchers have expressed disappointment about the underutilisation of funds by Karnataka. "The number of private vehicles on Bengaluru roads is increasing continuously. We are also witnessing a spurt in infrastructure development activities leading to a surge in levels of suspended dust particles in the atmosphere. Karnataka and Bengaluru must start utilising these funds and come up with an action plan for the city sooner rather than later," said an air quality expert.

> **"We are also witnessing a spurt in infrastructure development activities leading to a surge in levels of suspended dust particles in the atmosphere** – Expert

### India Scenario

Under NCAP funding during 2019–24, out of the 23 states, Meghalaya, Assam, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Punjab, and Delhi have utilised the least—below 40 percent.

Under the direct funding from the 15th Finance Commission grant, four states—Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh—show over 80 percent utilization. Three states—Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka—show less than 40 percent utilisation.

As much as Rs 19,711 crore has been earmarked for 131 cities for the period of FY 2019–20 to 2025–26, as stated in the 2023–24 MoEFCC report. Out of this, about Rs 3,172 crore has come to 82 cities under the NCAP program and about Rs 16,539 crore to 42 million-plus cities and seven urban agglomerations under the 15th Finance Commission grant.

# 14-hour work day in IT sector: Employees union slams govt's plans

Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees' Union (KITU) has urged the Siddaramaiah-led government to reconsider its reported plans to extend the working hours of the IT/ITeS/BPO sector. According to the union, the government plans to increase the working hours to 14 hours a day.

The proposal to amend the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishment Act in this regard, was presented in a recent meeting called by the labour department with various stakeholders in the industry, it said in a release. Labour Minister Santosh Lad, officials from the Department of Labour and IT-BT Ministry attended the meeting, in which the representatives of the union took part.

The union strongly opposed the proposed amendment which, it said, poses an "attack on the basic right of any worker to have a personal life."

The labour minister agreed to have one more round of discussion before taking any decision, it added.

Noting that the proposed new bill 'Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill 2024' attempts to normalise a 14-hour work day, the union said, the existing act only allows a maximum of 10 hours work per day, including overtime.

This amendment will allow the companies to go for a two shift system instead of the existing three shift system, and one third of the workforce will be thrown out of their employment, it claimed. Noting that during the meeting KITU pointed out the studies on the health impact of extended working hours among the IT employees, it said, "the Karnataka government in their hunger, to please their corporate bosses, neglects the most fundamental right of any individual, the right to live." This amendment shows that the Government is not ready to consider the workers as human beings who need personal and social life, it added. **— PTI**

# Goalkeeper Srijith: Continuing a family tradition

## Player belongs to family of goalkeepers beginning with his paternal grandfather

The ongoing Inter-Constituency football tournament for the Chief Minister's Cup provided a memorable revelation. Doing duty for the Shantinagar constituency team was the lanky Srijith Rameshkumar. In three outings so far, he has not conceded a single goal and has remained unbeaten. His unique style and performance reminded one of some famous goalkeepers who have donned the gloves in the city for reputed teams as also for the state team. Surely, Srijith was a chip of the old block. And what a splendid block it turned out to be!

Probing a little further, one stumbled upon perhaps the most unique phenomenon in Karnataka and, perhaps, even in Indian football. Srijith belongs to a family of many reputed goalkeepers beginning with his paternal grandfather.

Natraj M, with a predominantly left-handed throw and shot, turned out for many years for the once-famous Electronics & Radar Establishment (LRDE) outfit. LRDE were a formidable side and had even won the super division title with Natraj making splendid contributions. Natraj was in the then Mysore team for the 1958 Santosh trophy as well. Natraj also played for the Bangalore Blues.

Natraj's sons Ravikumar, Rameshkumar and Muralidharan all kept up their father's legacy and donned the goalkeeping gloves with distinction. Ravikumar, like his father, was also predominantly left-oriented in his throws and clearances. He turned out for the top-notch MEG at club level, and for Services and Karnataka in the National championships for the Santosh Trophy.

Srijith Rameshkumar has signed up with FC Bangalore United and has bolstered the team

His younger brothers Muralidharan was under the BEML bar while Rameshkumar played for Government Press with both excelling for their respective club sides for a number of years in the super division league and other tournaments.

Srijith is Rameshkumar's son while his brother Manivannan deviated from the line of goalkeepers and plays as a stopper for Jupiters FC and represented Bangalore University. So how did Srijith take to goalkeeping? "Well, I have watched many matches that my father and uncles have played. I was also inspired by them to become a goalkeeper. So I took a fancy to goalkeeping," Srijith said after his match. "I have not seen my grandfather Natraj play. But I am told that he was a very good goalkeeper," added Srijith.

Endowed with a good height and physique, Srijith is a picture of confidence and concentration under the bar. "I take my job very seriously and goalkeeping is something where you must concentrate every single minute," he said. Srijith was with the Bangalore FC Under-19 team but a good and better offer from FC Bangalore United saw him sign up for them. "I have been playing for them for the past five years," he added.

With Srijith guarding their goal, FCBU won the super division title last year and figured in the I-League 2nd division and finished third. They also took the third spot in the super division league last season. Srijith was in the Karnataka team which won the Santosh Trophy in 2022.

Srijith likes to function like the German legend Manuel Nueur and play a lot with his feet by positioning himself at the top of the box. "Among Indian goalkeepers, Amrinder Singh plays a lot like that and I try to follow him. In world football, England's Pickford and Spain's Simon are my favourites," opined Srijith.

On his future ambitions, Srijith aims high. "Yes, like all others, I also want to represent my country and make my state and country proud," signed off the soft-spoken Srijith.

**— SS Shreekumar**

# Youngster has nutrition for all on her mind

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sakshi launched the 'Hungry No More' campaign, leveraging her knowledge of chemistry and nutrition.

Consulting a food nutritionist, she chose bananas as the best source of energy for the children to eat each morning. She raised funds from friends, family, and the community in both the USA and India to provide 400 bananas daily, sourced from a local vendor in Bellandur Market. This initiative quickly showed positive results, with teachers noting improved concentration among students.

For the entire 2023-2024 school year, the students received bananas every morning that were consumed with gratitude.

"I had numerous interactions with the Headmaster of the Government Nodal School Shri Thimme Gowda led me to identify a lack of clean toilets and a nutritious breakfast meal as two demanding issues. I knew that if I presented these challenges to the right people, I could come out with a solution to both the challenges that the children faced," said Sakshi.

## Restrooms too

With nutrition in place, Sakshi's focus turned to the restrooms. An adjacent area to the school was identified for construction. Using Amazon Distributors' CSR funds, the project was executed swiftly, with minimal disruption to school activities, delivering five new toilets in record time.

Thimme Gowda said, "The delivery of bananas to the students of government nodal School Bellandur was very welcome. Sakshi was very kind and understanding and acted on our request. She also helped us in setting up five new toilets which are very helpful to the students. We look forward to such support from corporates and citizens."

Sakshi's future plans include understanding the importance of nutrition and hygiene.

"This has led me to develop a passion for chemistry. I hope to carry this forward with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry that I would like to use to tackle food and security issues in the future," she said.


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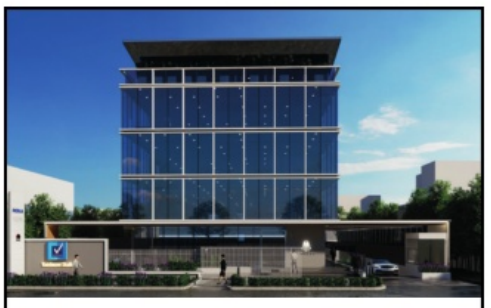

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# Fruity fine

## 6 immunity boosting healthy monsoon fruits to eat

The monsoon brings with it tons of changes in the environment, and as a result, our body's immune system weakens. During the rainy season, our body may be subjected to allergies and digestive issues on a regular basis and the majority of it gets influenced by the meals we have. Therefore, it is critical to boost our body's immunity with enough vitamin and antioxidant consumption. Eating nutritious monsoon fruits is a great way to stay fit. Eating nutritious veggies and fruits can help strengthen your immune system and keep you healthy.

Dietary needs fluctuate according to the season and monsoons call for a diverse selection of nutritious foods and a balanced diet. Along with hot soups and stews, fruits are recommended to consume. While the humid temperature of monsoons makes it difficult to digest meals, fruits make for a great option as most can be digested easily.

They also help with improved blood circulation, liver, and renal functioning.

If you want to boost your immune system and stay healthy throughout the rainy season, stock up on these fruits. However, do remember to thoroughly wash them and check to see whether they are ripe and ready to consume.

### 1. Cherry

Cherries include melatonin, an antioxidant that aids in the fight against infections and inflammation. Aside from these, cherries are beneficial to your health in a variety of ways. They aid in the reduction of bad cholesterol and have anti-carcinogenic qualities. As a result, it aids in the relief of sleeplessness and headaches. Furthermore, cherries aid in the prevention of heart disease by lowering cholesterol levels and possessing anti-carcinogenic qualities. Cherries also help to lower excessive blood pressure and uric acid levels.

**Pro tip:** Cherries can be used in purees, jams, and tarts. However, they taste best when eaten whole.

### 2. Peach

This is a fruit high in Vitamin A, B carotene, and C, all of which help to boost immunity. Peach is beneficial for skin protection and eyesight enhancement. It also aids in weight loss due to its high fiber content. Peaches are also high in fluoride, which aids in the prevention of tooth cavities. Peach is known as the "Fruit of Calmness" in Hungary owing to its capacity to ease tension, and anxiety, and establish mental calmness.

**Pro tip:** You must select peaches with care. Choose those that have a yellowish-orange tint and are firm when crushed. You may eat it raw, blend it with salad, or consume the pulp.

> **During the rainy season, our body may be subjected to allergies and digestive issues and the majority of it gets influenced by the meals we have**

### 3. Jamun or Jawa Plum

These oblong, dark purple berries are another fruit that is beneficial to diabetics since it helps to manage blood sugar levels. Not only that, but the fruit is particularly useful during the monsoon season, as it may successfully alleviate gastrointestinal disorders that are typical during this time of year. Jamuns are low in calories and high in minerals such as iron, folate, potassium, and vitamins.

**Pro tip:** To get the greatest flavour, prepare a juice or consume it raw.

### 4. Litchi

Litchi is an Indian monsoon fruit with a high water content that blooms nicely during the rainy season. The fibres in litchi aid with acidity and indigestion. Litchi contains vitamin C, which aids in the treatment of a common cold obtained during the monsoon season. Litchi can also help asthmatics who have trouble breathing during the rainy season. Aside from these benefits, litchi is a well-known immunity enhancer for the human body. Litchi contains vitamin C, which aids in the treatment of a common cold obtained during the monsoon season. Litchi is excellent for skin care since it eliminates acne and blemishes.

**Pro tip:** Simply remove the skin and eat the luscious white pulp to savour this delicacy. They are also utilized in the production of sorbets, fruit drinks, and ice cream. Litchis can also be found in stir fry recipes and salads.

### 5. Pomegranates

Pomegranates, which are high in minerals, boost resistance during the monsoon season. Their antioxidants assist in preventing illnesses and disorders including high blood pressure, cancer, and heart disease. The presence of B vitamins and folate promotes the formation of red blood cells and improves blood circulation. Because of the antioxidants, it contains, this monsoon fruit helps protect your body from numerous diseases such as colds and flu. Pomegranate juice contains antioxidants with anti-inflammatory effects. It also aids in the reduction of systolic blood pressure. The fruit is also effective in the treatment of numerous types of arthritis.

**Pro tip:** If you become tired of eating simple pomegranates, try pomegranate juice or combine it with salad or yogurt.

### 6. Plums

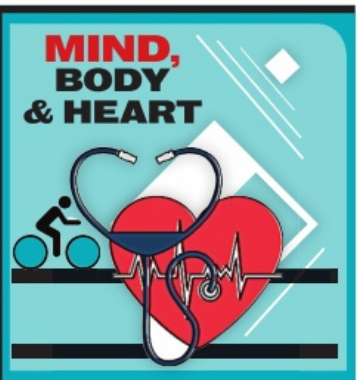
Plums are little package fruits with a high value.
They are one of the monsoon fruits that you can cultivate in your own garden. During the rainy season, eating plums is a guaranteed method to strengthen immunity and keep the monsoon-related disease under control.

They're strong in C and K vitamins, as well as potassium, fibre, and copper.

For its general health and immune advantages, plums are a must-eat during the monsoon season. Plums have a significant quantity of naturally occurring sugar sorbitol and plant fibre, which serve as a laxative and assist in relieving constipation. Plums also act as anticancer agents.

**Pro tip:** Plums can be used in a variety of foods by roasting, poaching, or cooking them into a sauce. They can also be used in sweets, jellies, and chutneys. And of course, they can be eaten raw as well.

**— Samara Setia, Femina**

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Comment on each other's posts without tagging. A cheeky compliment or a funny inside joke only the two of you understand in the comments can be a great way to show affection without making it too public.

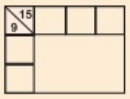
**Story Highlights**
Create a story highlight reel of your outings and tag it something neutral like 'Good Times' or 'Adventures'. This lets you showcase moments without being overt. Your friends will catch on, but the aunties might not!

**The Reveal Photo**
Start with a picture that doesn't give everything away such as a mirror snap with your boo's reflection in the background. Finally, when you're ready to reveal a bit more, go for a soft reveal. Maybe a fun selfie or a candid shot where you're both laughing with captions or a simple heart emoji.

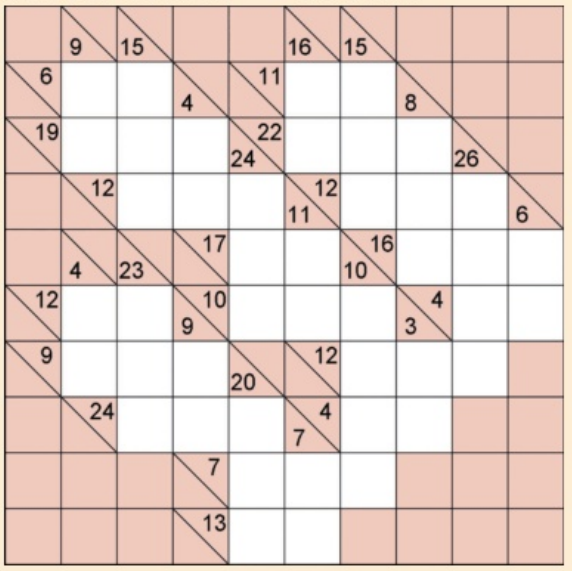
**-Sharon Dsilva, Femina**

## Kakuro

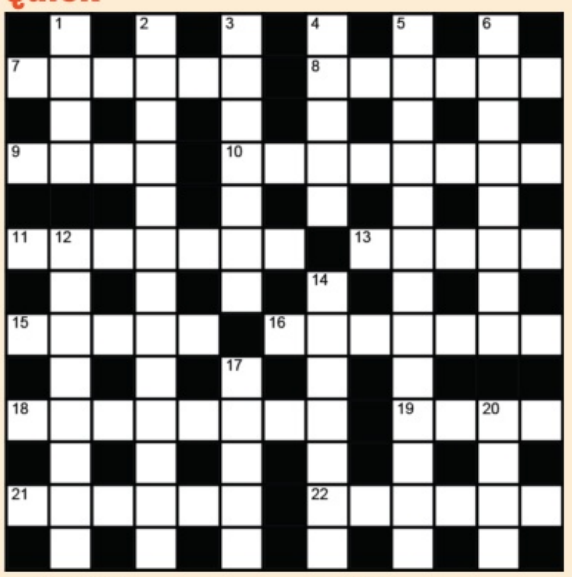
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.




Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

7 Salivary, endocrine, pituitary, et al.? (6)
8 Naps or reposes (6)
9 Berlin negative (4)
10 Extracted, dug out or weeded out? (8)
11 Stripped or robbed of money, property, etc. (7)
13 Remained on feet? (5)
15 Moneylending (5)
16 Frees from a liability or obligation imposed on others (7)
18 Tourist destination famous for white water rafting (8)
19 Agatha Christie's novel (1,2,1)
21 Formal notice of warning (6)
22 Keep waiting (6)

**DOWN**

1 Smoke-duct (4)
2 Continuous (13)
3 One giving the guarantee, perhaps? (7)
4 Russian emperors (5)
5 Purify (13)
6 Decided to leave or withdrew? (5,3)
12 City in Nevada (3,5)
14 Stretches, drags out or elongates (7)
17 Amiably eccentric (5)
20 Sudden attack (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: O EQUALS T**

ORQ UQELPPLPE LV ORQ ZKVO LZTKFOSPO TSFO KX ORQ YKFJ.

## Linemaro

Did you learn flash? Your smile can light up the darkest cave

## Mindchow

There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered

## Joke of the day

I have had some bad news about my wife's wealthy uncle who's ill in hospital. He's recovering. I went to see him last week. I said: "Is there anything I can do for you?" He said: "Only one thing. Take your foot off the oxygen tube."

## Loop

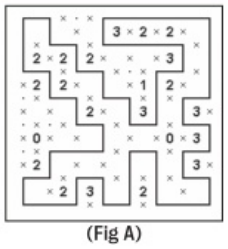
### Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

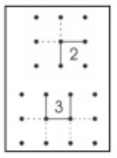
### How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

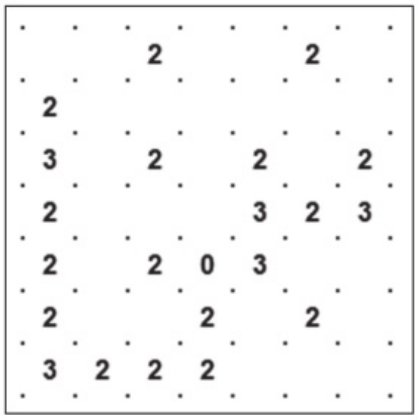
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



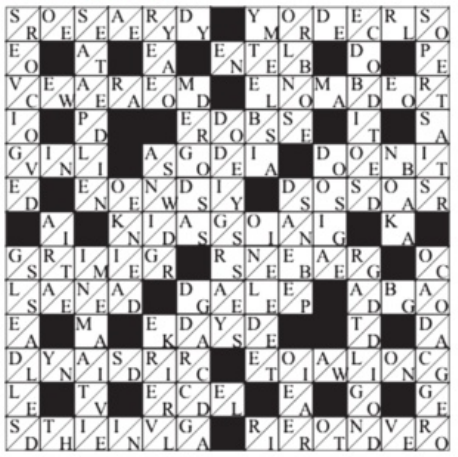
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



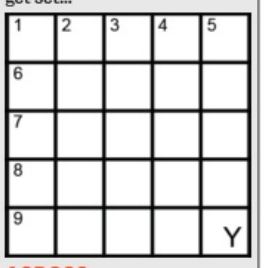
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...




**ACROSS**

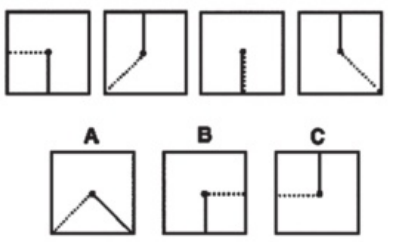
1 Worst; 6 Raree; 7 Riels; 8 Per OK; 9 Spy in

**DOWN**

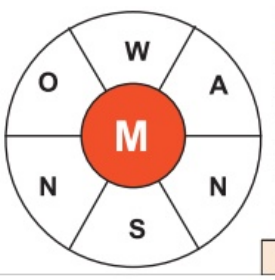
1 Swaps; 2 Or pol; 3 Irk ie; 4 Terne; 5 Yes RR

## Mensapuzzle

Based on the sequence in the top row, which of the boxes would come next




## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

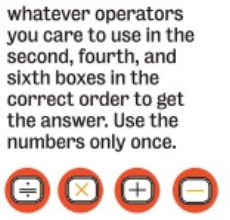
04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 2
4 7 7 8

Medium = 15
4 7 9 9

Hard = 64
4 8 8 4

## Hocusfocus




Find at least six differences in details between panels.

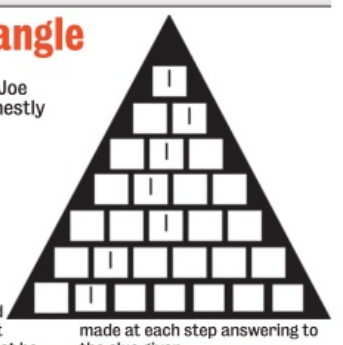
**Differences:** 1. Teddy bear's face is different. 2. Lapel is missing. 3. Sleeve is shorter. 4. Nose is different. 5. Hat is tilted. 6. Thumb is moved.

## Riddler

Music's source or water's course, A shrill and piercing cry. With bowl and stem I gently send My signals to the sky. What am I?

## Alpha triangle

1 Third vowel
2 American soldier Joe
3 Manipulate dishonestly
4 Circular band
5 Amused looks
6 Ascending
7 Taking a chance

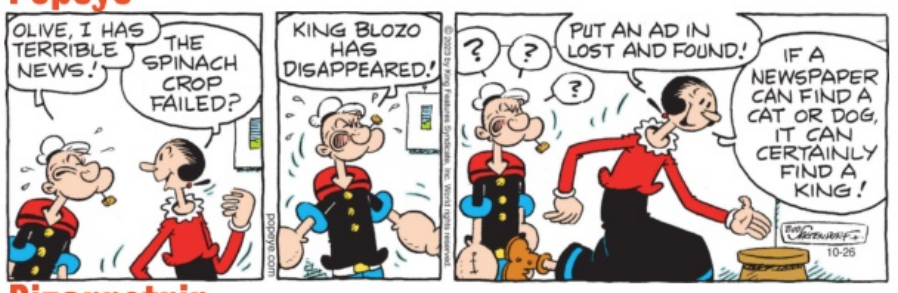


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

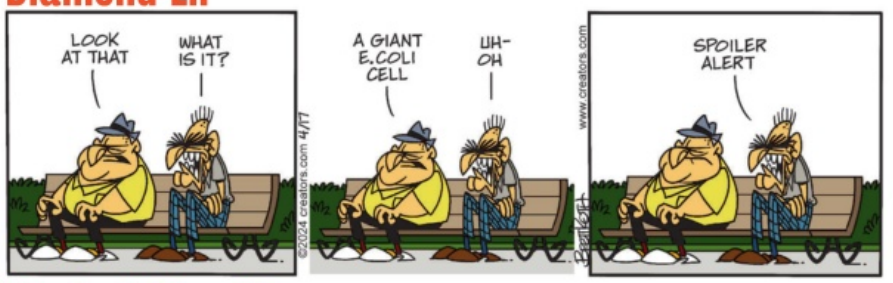
# COMICS

## Popeye


OLIVE, I HAS TERRIBLE NEWS!
THE SPINACH CROP FAILED?
KING BLOZO HAS DISAPPEARED!
? ? ?
PUT AN AD IN LOST AND FOUND!
IF A NEWSPAPER CAN FIND A CAT OR DOG, IT CAN CERTAINLY FIND A KING!
10-26

## Bizarrotrip

## Diamond Lil




## Hart of the city

HEY, MILLY! HEY, COREY! THIS IS MY LITTLE SISTER, KAT, AND HER FRIEND HEART.
ALWAYS GOOD TO SEE THE YOUTH DOING THEIR PART.
IS HE TALKING ABOUT US?
OF COURSE HE IS. THEY'RE SENIORS. WE'RE LIKE INFANTS TO THEM.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

## Crankshaft

HEY THERE, LILLIAN... I SEE YOU BROUGHT YOUR OWN BOOKS TO THE OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL, TOO!
U-MAUL IT
OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL
4-17
BATIUK & DAVIS

## Mutts

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
The day might start dull, but after the late evening, you may be able to overcome negativity. New people may connect with you on the work front. With the help of new people, you may revamp your business plans. You are advised to read the documents before putting in your signature.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Today, with the help of blessings, you may have control over your indecisiveness. Kids' health is better now. Your colleagues may support your work, leading to the project's success. You may expect to get some incentives with the salary. Natives related to dairy, water projects, grains, home maker art and culture may do well.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may be busy with domestic issues. You might take an interest in artefacts, movies, and fashion which may improve your creativity. You may spend money on buying some artefacts, household kinds of things which will improve your social status. You may become more polite with others. You may also plan to visit some desired places with family or friends.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel happier, and your internal vitality will boost your self-confidence. You may feel relaxed after a sound sleep. You should avoid carelessness in making decisions in terms of finance, profession and studies. You may likely enjoy romantic moments with your spouse. Sometimes, you may face self-respect issues and need to keep patience to avoid converting happy moments into bad moments.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today your tendency to overspend may likely affect your savings. You should be careful while expressing yourself at work and on the domestic front as well. It is advised to avoid lending money. You should postpone making important decisions in real estate and other asset issues. Avoid neglecting your responsibilities.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today with the help of your strong network you may implement your business plans. You may use your wisdom to gain profits. You may also have harmony in your domestic life, there may be a good understanding between you and your spouse. Natives related to metal, booking agents will do better.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may be passionate in terms of work. you should avoid mixing your brain with your heart to make important decisions. It is advised to follow your intuition before making decisions related to business, job and investments. Work load may be there but a blessing from elders may help you control this messy situation.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel at peace, and not being in a hurry may positively affect your work. Your destiny may help you to complete your postponed projects and targets. You may show patience in your domestic life to maintain harmony. You may have some skin and stomach-related issues.

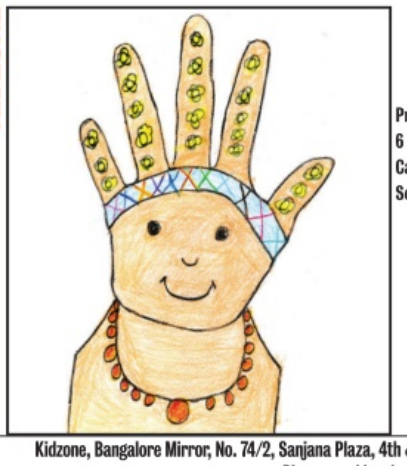
**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may be a victim of negative thoughts. You may feel dull. Impatient nature and arrogance may push you back from making difficult decisions. You may need the blessings of your elders to help you advance in your work. You should avoid making investments in dead assets. Love birds shall avoid discussing bad moments.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today is good for you, and you may perform well at work. Your boss may likely give you new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Disputes with your partner may settle down. You may lend money to make your assets. Your kid's health may be better now. You may likely make investments for kids' futures.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may be blessed by the moon. Love would be in the air in terms of personal life. Singles may find a suitable match. You may do better in terms of professional life. Your friends and subordinate staff may support you. Investments in gems and jewellery may likely give positive gains in the near future. Be careful about the health of your elders.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may be happy due to a blessing from the auspicious planetary combination. You may have some sort of energy which may create your prestige among people around you. You may spend your time to study intellectual stuff.

## KIDZONE



Prerana G, 6 Years, Carmel School

Gnyan Vaibhav, 9 Years, B Mona High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

## SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
(3) / 3 + [27 – 5 + 5 + (8)] * 4 – (31)]
1 + 3 = 4

**STRIKE OUT**

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**QUICK**

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**MENSA PUZZLE**
The answer is 8. The dotted line rotates 45 degrees counterclockwise in each square, and the solid black line moves 180 degrees each time.

**QUOTE UNCODE**
The beginning is the most important part of the work.

**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 2 |
| 6 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 |
| 8 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| 9 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 7 |
| 1 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 |

**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
I, GI, RIg, RIng, GrIns, RIsIng, RIsking.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
7 – 4 – 8 + 7 = 2
Medium
9 + 9 + 4 – 7 = 15
Hard
4 + 8 – 4 x 8 = 64

**LOOP**

**KAKURO**

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | O | R | T | S |
| A | R | E | R | E |
| S | L | I | E | R |
| P | O | K | E | R |
| S | P | I | N | Y |

**BULL'S EYE**
mason, moan, mown, SNOWMAN, swam, woman

**RIDDLER**
A pipe

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SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

## Set to prove mettle

Prasad Vashist is all set to prove his mettle as an actor in Sandalwood with the lead role in Sathyanath-directed Kabandha that is expected to be released shortly.

"I have nurtured an ambition of becoming an actor since my college days and also did acting courses at a film institute in the city. I began working at a company after doing MBA. My passion towards movies brought me to acting first in TV serials and a few Kannada movies," said Vashist.

Vashist, who is from Tumakuru, now lives in Bengaluru. He has shared the screen with veteran actors Avinash, Kishore, and director Yogaraj Bhat in Kabandha that is said to be a horror film. Apart from playing the lead, he has bankrolled the movie along with friends and well-wishers.

## Superhero!

Anu Prabhakar, who debuted as a heroine in Sandalwood with Hrudaya Hrudaya 25 years ago, plays the lead character in Hagga. Harshika Poonacha plays a journalist in the movie directed by Avinash N. The teaser of Hagga was released on Wednesday. Anu Prabhakar said she plays a different character, a sort of superhero, in the movie and all the credit should go to the director. "I was very happy during the shooting of the movie because the director had clarity on what he expects from the actors. I thank my makeup artists," said Anu. Mother-to-be Harshika Poonacha said she shot for around 30 days. "The movie can keep the audiences on the edge of their seats," said Harshika.

# Matters of the heart

### Janhvi reveals how person who broke her heart also put it back together

Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor has been making headlines recently with rumors of her rekindled romance with Shikhar Pahariya. The speculation intensified when the duo was spotted together at the extended wedding celebrations of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant.

Amidst these rumours, Janhvi Kapoor shared her experiences of love and heartbreak in a recent interview. Speaking on the podcast Hauterrfly, Janhvi Kapoor opened up about her first heartbreak. "I have genuinely experienced heartbreak only one time in my life, but the same person came back and put my heart together. So, it was all good," she revealed. This candid admission hints at a heartwarming love story, possibly pointing towards her relationship with Shikhar Pahariya.

Janhvi also discussed the emotional challenges she faced during her teenage years, particularly how PMS affected her relationships. She recalled the challenging period when she would frequently break up with her then boyfriend due to mood swings.

"In the first two or three months, he would be in shock, but after that, he would be like, 'Yes, okay,' and after two days, I would go back to him crying and saying sorry," says a confused Janhvi. She further said she wouldn't understand why her brain was working like this.

Meanwhile, Janhvi was hospitalised for food poisoning. Her father, Boney Kapoor, confirmed to ETimes that Janhvi was discharged from South Mumbai's HN Reliance Hospital, where she received treatment. The actress is now back at home.

**ETimes**

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